

REMARKS

Claims 2-9, 15-19 and 21 were pending in the application at the time the present Office Action was mailed. Claims 2-9 and 15-19 have been cancelled in the interest of advancing prosecution and without commenting on or conceding the merits of the rejections of these claims. New claims 25-48 have been added. Accordingly, claims 21 and 25-48 are currently pending in the present application.

In the Office Action, claims 2-9 and 15-19 were rejected, and claim 21 was indicated to be allowable. Specifically, the status of the claims in light of the Office Action was as follows:

(A) Claims 2, 3, 5-9, 15, 16, 18 and 19 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over European Patent Application No. 0,351,217 ("EPO '217) in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,271,645 to Wicker ("Wicker"); and

(B) Claims 4 and 17 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over EPO '217 in view of "Wicker" and further in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,466,012 to Puckett et al.

The undersigned attorney wishes to thank the Examiner for engaging in a telephone interview on June 16, 2004, to discuss the present Office Action. During the course of the interview, the undersigned attorney explained the relationship between the subject matter of newly added claims 25-48 and the subject matter of prior claims 2-9 and 15-19. The following remarks summarize and expand on the interview and reflect the agreements reached.

Response to the Rejections of Claims 2-9 and 15-19

Claims 2-9 and 15-19 have been cancelled without prejudice. Accordingly, the rejection of these claims is now moot.

New claims 25-48 have been added by the present response. Applicant respectfully submits that none of these claims contain new matter. For example, as

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discussed with the Examiner during the June 16 telephone interview, the subject matter of new independent claim 25 at least generally reflects the subject matter of prior claim 2, but recites a further feature of dispensing a printed substrate from a coin discriminator. As claim 25 recites, the printed substrate is redeemable for at least one of cash and merchandise. New claims 26-32 depend from base claim 25, and are directed to subject matter disclosed in the specification of the present application.

New independent claim 33 is an apparatus claim directed to subject matter that is at least generally similar to the subject matter of method claim 25. New claims 34-39 depend from base claim 33, and are directed to subject matter disclosed in the specification of the present application.

New independent claim 40 is directed to a voucher for use with a coin discriminator to assist in distinguishing unauthorized duplicate or counterfeit vouchers. The voucher includes a substrate having at least first indicia indicating a value of the voucher. The voucher further includes a plurality of perforations defining a curved pattern in the substrate. As discussed with the Examiner during the June 16 telephone interview, the subject matter of claim 40 is at least generally similar to the subject matter of claim 2 in issued U.S. Patent No. 6,349,972 (the "'972 patent"). As further discussed with the Examiner, the present application is a continuation of U.S. Patent Application No. 09/422,917, which is the application from which the '972 patent issued. (A terminal disclaimer in compliance with 37 C.F.R. § 1.321(c) has already been filed in the present application on November 22, 2002 to overcome a double-patenting rejection in view of the '972 patent). New claims 41-44 depend from base claim 40, and are directed to subject matter disclosed in the specification of the present application.

New independent claim 45 is directed to a system for providing a redeemable voucher. The system includes various means which are fully supported by subject matter disclosed in the specification of the present application. New claims 46-48 depend from base claim 45, and are directed to subject matter disclosed in the specification of the present application.

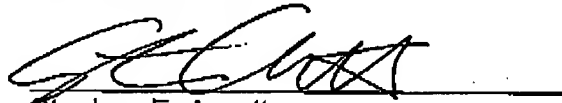
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Conclusion

In view of the foregoing, the claims pending in the application comply with 35 U.S.C. § 112 and patentably define over the applied art. Therefore, a Notice of Allowance is respectfully requested. If the Examiner has any questions or believes another telephone conference would expedite prosecution of this application, the Examiner is encouraged to call the undersigned at (206) 359-6351.

Respectfully submitted,

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